

WAR ON DRUGS MOVES ONTO U.S. PLAYGROUNDS

Springfield, Virginia (reuter) "KRISTIN" was a model pupil, a star of her private-school swimming team and choir and the pride of her parents when she began taking drugs at 13. Almost four years later the former golden girl was living on the streets, diseased and mutilated, begging and stealing. She was what American youngsters call a "Garbage head" "I was doing pot, alcohol, speed, LSD, PCP, hash, hash oil, nitrous oxide,

methadone, cocaine, over-counters (diet pills and similar) downers, valium, trash drugs (cigarettes sprayed with insecticide), she recited in an interview with Reuters. Kristin a pseudonym-is now 17 and appears well on the way to a recovery. She is one of the bright-eyed results of the youth drug treatment courses that flourish across the United States in communities such as this Washington suburb, as parents and leaders try to ward off what they fear could be a chemically dependent future.

We are in danger of losing an entire generation (to drugs) says President Reagan's wife Nancy, who is in the vanguard of the anti-drug crusade for children. Dr. Mel Riddle, director of a Washington rehabilitation centre, said: "Thirty per cent of American adults abstain-no alcohol, no drugs. Only six or eight per cent of youngsters now are abstainers. A generation is coming unlike any other. Experts say the United States has the highest level of drug use of any industrialised nation. The illicit narcotics industry is worth \$110 billion a year and growing fast. And the battleground between worried authorities and drug peddlers is often the playground. "Druggie" kids usually say they were introduced to narcotics at school. In New York City it's common to see seven and eight-year-olds using drugs in the playgrounds, said Joyce Nalepka, president of the National Federation of Parents for Drug-free Youth (NFP). She estimates 500,000 American children are in serious trouble with drugs. According to the 5.4 million-member National Congress of Parents and

Teachers nearly two out of three students in their final year of high school have used illicit drugs at some time. High school use of cocaine has doubled since 1979 and inhalant abuse is rising among 12 to 17 year-olds it reports. A study published last year encouraged anti-drug groups, saying that fewer highschool seniors were using alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs regularly than six years earlier. But some experts are sceptical. They point to the rise of cocaine, which they call the most psychologically-addictive narcotic. They say drugs are going down the age scale and claim more students are dropping out of high school before their final year, often for drug-related

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CENTRAL GOVERNMENT STARTED "SHOW FLORIN" CAMPAIGN

WILLEMSTAD—The central Government has started a campaign dubbed "Shon Florin". Prime Minister Maria Liberia Peters said when she launched the campaign that the idea is to make the people more conscientious about the use of the guilder and to prevent unnecessary spending of money and encourage saving. The campaign is being

promoted with posters, stickers, pamphlets and radio and television spots, and jingles.

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A REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF

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sports in San Nicolas; information and propaganda; housing in San Nicolas; environment and social relations in San Nicolas; prostitution and bars in San Nicolas; San Nicolas and politics; senior citizens of San Nicolas; maintenance and cleaning of San Nicolas; health and medical care in San Nicolas; social assistance and poverty in San Nicolas; crime and drugs in San Nicolas; education and library in San Nicolas. The report also contains the electoral districts of San Nicolas and a breakdown of the particulars of the male and female population of San Nicolas.

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